CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — APPENDIX

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Cuba Today—Second of a Series

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. PAUL G. ROGERS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, June 25, 1964

Mr. ROGERS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with my remarks made yesterday regarding the current series of articles written by Canadian newsman Bruce Taylor and published by the Washington Star, I include the second installment on Cuba's plight under communism for the Record in order that it may receive the widest possible circulation.

CUBA TODAY-U.S. EMBARGO IS STRANGLING ECONOMY DESPITE SOVIET HELP

(By Bruce Taylor)

Cuba is being strangled by the United

States' trade embargo.

It cannot survive at its current rate of import and technical assistance from the Soviet bloc nations. It would perish, slowly but certainly, but for its expanding com-merce with Canada and other NATO partners of the United States.

Even that may not be sufficient to keep it

Its sugar production—the core of its economy-will be the lowest in history this year. Its agriculture and livestock programs are failing. Its internal transportation system is about to collapse. Its factories—when they operate at all—are turning out products that cost two and three times more to manufacture than to import. Its major construc-tion schedules have been jettisoned.

WOEFULLY INADEQUATE

Soviet industrial and farm replacements for the United States machinery that is breaking down through misuse and old age are proving woefully inadequate, both in quantity and caliber.

Most serious of all, Cuba's 7 million people are fed up with the government that has been promising them pie-in-the-sky since 1959, and are growing increasingly loath to cooperate with it.

Resentment toward Premier Castro is rising. Deliberate work slowdowns are reaching critical proportions,

Mr. Castro, nonetheless, continues to make grandiose claims of progress. Rigid press censorship in Cuba prevents the escape of editorial comments to the contrary. And most visiting correspondents—confined to Havana or taken on carefully guided tours of the 700-mile-long island—have little way of the 700-mile-long island—have little way of investigating the truth of his assertions.

TRAGEDY OF COMMUNISM

But photographer Adrian Lunny and I have just ended 2,200 miles of travel within Cuba—the freest movement ever accorded North American newspapermen behind Mr. Castro's Palm Tree Curtain—and have seen

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at first hand the tragedy that has been wreaked by communism.

Many correspondents who are permitted to go there now have little more with which compare conditions than the standards of their own countries, and that isn't fair. I lived there in 1957, however, and am able to make comparisons with Cuba then and today.

Foreign correspondents must acquire authorization to travel outside Havana. Lunny and I were approved for our extensive movement because Mr. Castro is going a long way these days to curry favor with Cana-

dians. He sees Canada as a savior.

It is one of the few countries able to suphim with essential material no longer available to him from the United States and he claims he will do about \$60 million worth of business with it this year. (Official figures are far less than that amount, but it is acknowledged that many Cuban purchases, made for cash, are not recorded as such.)

MANY RESTRICTIONS

Even so, there were numerous restrictions on our travel, and there was a not entirely subtle warning that an unfavorable report by us would mean detention and deportation from Cuba if we later attempted to return.

Cubans, generally, were delighted to see us, and would go to great pains to talk to privately. Sometimes, this wasn't easy.

The state of terror in which Cuba is held is not readily apparent in Havana, where movement is reasonably unhindered. Havana still is one of the world's most beautiful cities, although Mr. Castro has done his best to blight its esthetic attraction by draping it with building-sized propaganda signs. This is the Cuba that most visitors to the island

It is only when you go into the interior that you are made very much aware of the real nature of the Castro reign.

VIRTUAL SLAVERY

The people there are in virtual slavery. Everything they do, down to the simplest action, is known to the secret police. They speak to strangers only where they cannot be overheard, and then only after looking over their shoulders.

On some of our travel among them we were closely escorted by secret police or members of the Cuban Communist Party (Partido Unido de la Revolucion Socialistica) who were charged with preventing us from speaking to anyone other than Government officials, or seeing anything other than that which had been designated acceptable.

Escort was particularly close in Oriente Province, biggest of Cuba's six, at the eastern end of the island. There were three menone of them armed—to meet us when we stepped from the Rusisan Ilyushin 18 air-liner that brought us to Santiago from Havana. They were with us until we left that province 4 days and several hundred miles later.

ELUDED ESCORTS

It wasn't too difficult to elude them late at night—usually through a back door somewhere—and getting away from them to talk to people became somewhat of a game. One night, however, when Mr. Lunny remained in our room to give the impression we both still were there, I got into an animated political conversation with what I thought was an ordinary Cuban—who turned out to be chief of the area's secret police.

We were not surprised by the close escort in Oriente. There was a report of impending trouble in the Province the day we arrived. The day after we left the big sugar mill at Pilon was blown up.

CONDITIONS WORSE

Some of our travel in other Provinces was in the company of a driver selected for us by the Government. He spent a great

deal of time at the outset attempting to convince us he was a "gusano"—a worm—Mr. Castro's word for Cubans who are opposed to him. But he gave up in disgust eventually and lapsed into long daily propaganda orations.

When necessary, however, as in Oriente, we generally were able to slip away from the various agents keeping an eye on us. We met and talked to a wide cross section of the population. And it soon became evident that Cuba today is in far more terrible condition, materially, than when I lived there during the dictatorship of Fulgencia Batista.

Mr. Batista was a venal man. His Government, devoid of ideology, was unbelievably corrupt. As as opposition to him mounted, he took increasingly severe measures to repress it. At length he gave his secret police, composed in the main of sadists, a free hand. They tortured and killed.

It became commonplace to find the children of his opponents dead in the streets. There was no sense of predictability then; a man could be arrested for anything.

Probably more than 80 percent of the population was opposed to him, and would have supported any man who could topple Mr. Castro was given overwhelming support because he promised reform and a high standard of living. He even promised free elections.

TREASURY WAS BLED

He appeared to be blessed relief from the long line of dictators who successively had bled the Cuban treasury. Mr. Batista, for example, is said to have banked \$600 million in other countries before he fled.

And if you understand Cubans, you know that politics are of secondary, if even of any, importance to most of them. They wouldn't have cared whether Mr. Castro was Communist, Fascist or democratic, so long as he gave them enough to eat, enough to wear, and enough to spend on simple luxuries.

But he didn't. He imposed a dictatorship that Mr. Batista's could not even begin to match for the manner in which it holds its people in subservience. Mr. Castro has held no elections, and doesn't intend to. He has failed in every promise to make Cuba a better place to live, and the Cubans say they are worse off than ever, that hardship is more widespread now than in the days of Mr. Batista.

POVERTY UNQUESTIONABLE

There is no question but that poverty existed in some sections of Cuba, particularly among the sugarworkers, before 1959.

But even then the country as a whole was far better off. Mr. Castro has slightly improved the welfare of the sugar workers, but greatly decreased that of almost everyone

He boasts that no one in Cuba goes hungry today, despite the gigantic failure of his nationalized farm system. That is true, but only because of the vast black market in food. All legal food purchases are rationed. The meat quota, for example, is three-quarters of a pound per person per week in Havana, less in the interior. A Cuban may legally buy six eggs a month.

Eggs are 6 cents each in the grocery stores. They are \$2 each on the black market.

The government makes no real attempt to stamp it out. It knows if it did the many small farmers who keep it going would cut down production altogether, rather than sell at government prices. Then, there would be no food at all.

There is a black market for everything. Automobile parts are particularly precious. Only government-approved persons can purchase new East European cars which come to Cuba in extremely limited quantity. All other cars are American, and all are of 1959 vintage or older. Most are barely hanging together. A 1957 Chrysler in bare running order, for instance, can be sold for the equivalent of \$7,000.

Clothing-what little there is of it-is rationed, and new consumer goods are non-existent. Cubans take you aside to ask in whispers if you can smuggle something-orother to them from Canada.

You expect them to ask for luxuries, and are startled to hear that what they want, as in the case of one tearful young mother, are

items such as baby pacifiers.

The cost of living in Cuba is particularly hard on foreigners because the government there insists the peso is at par with the American dollar. It relieves you of your dollars immediately on arrival at Havana airport, and replaces them with pesos-one for one.

FOOD COST ENORMOUS

That makes the price of eating, for instance, enormous. Soup is 2 pesos: \$2. Tomato juice is 11/2 pesos. An omelet is 6 pesos.

Hotel rates are unexpectedly low, about \$6-\$8 per person per room, and service in the major hotels is good. But if you plan to do business around the city you must hire a taxi by the day because you seldom can find one away from the midtown area.

In Cuba, there is a huge black market in American dollars. You are offered 7 and 8 pesos for 1. All of Cuba, it seems, is hoarding U.S. money for the great escape.

The story of what communism has done to

Cuba is written in the frantic desire of its

people to get away.

Four hundred thousand already have left. Tens of thousands more have applied for the permission to leave that takes up to 2 years. if at all, to acquire. Most will not get it. Many will. Spain's Iberia Airline, which maintains service between Havana and Madrid, is completely booked for the next 3 years.

ESCAPEES SHOT

Hardly a night passes but that a small boat does not set out from some obscure cove for Key West or Jamaica or the Bahamas. Most are discovered before they get far. Their oc-

cupants are shot. Mr. Castro, like his counterparts in East Germany who built the Berlin wall, knows he has lost his bid to convert the adult population to his system of government. He is missing no bets to insure he does not lose his grip entirely.

A young soldier with a machinegun is the last person who boards each domestic Cuban airline flight-to prevent it from becoming an unscheduled international flight.

He comes through the doorway after all passengers are seated and the crew is in the cockpit. He backs all the way up the aisle to the cockpit door, his gun at the ready. Then, he lets himself into the cockpit and bolts the door behind him.

He remains in the cockpit until the flight is completed.

Tribute to Vincent J. Burnelli

EXTENSION OF REMARKS OF

HON. CHARLES McC. MATHIAS, JR. OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, June 25, 1964

Mr. MATHIAS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday one of America's great pioneers in aviation was buried in Huntington, Long Island. The record of this Congress should contain for posterity some of his many achievements.

That Mr. Burnelli is one of the outstanding aircraft pioneers can be substantiated by the Smithsonian Institu-

tion, the U.S. Patent Office, the Early Birds, the Quiet Birdmen, the Institute of Aerospace Sciences, and so forth. While a large number of aviation firsts were designed and reduced to practice by Mr. Burnelli, his outstanding product remains the development of the lifting fuselage—sometimes referred to as the "body lift," the "lifting body," "flying wing," and so forth—principle of aircraft design.

Other important Burnelli credits are: The first great American airliner, the Lawson Airliner of 1919; the first airfreighter, the RB-2, in 1924; the first reduction to practice of the breakaway leading edge in conjunction with highlift flaps-currently being used on most high-speed jet aircraft-in the GX-3 of 1927; the first multiengine aircraft with retractable landing gear and the first twin-engine aircraft to maintain single engine performance at design gross weight, the CB-16 in 1928; the first flatmetal stressed skin construction in American aircraft design, the UB-20 of 1930, and so forth.

Mr. Burnelli's work won the acclaim of prominent members of the aviation industry. His death is a great loss to our country.

The June 24 edition of the Washington Post carried an article on this outstanding citizen which I append here and call to the attention of my colleagues:

VINCENT J. BURNELLI, 68; PIONEER PLANE DESIGNER

Vincent J. Burnelli, a pioneering aviation engineer whose inventions include retractengineer whose inventions include restact-able landing gear for multiengine planes and the high-lift wing flap, died of a stroke Monday afternoon in Southampton Hospital, Southampton, N.Y. He was 68.

He was stricken Saturday in Easthampton, where he was attending a meeting of one of the many aviation clubs to which he belonged.

Still an active designer as president of Washington's Burnelli Avionics, Inc., Mr. Burnelli had recently taken out five patents on the lifting-body principle of fuselage design. Conventional fuselages do not contribute to the planes' lifting power. The Burnelli fuselage lifts 50 percent of its own weight.

During his boyhood in Temple, Tex., Mr. Burnelli built models of early aircraft.
When his family moved to Brooklyn, N.Y.,
he took night courses in engineering at
St. Peter's Academy in Union, N.J.
He designed and built his first plane with

a friend in 1915 in Maspeth, Long Island. The plane was demonstrated at Hempstead Plains Aviation Field, which later became Roosevelt Field.

Before the outbreak of World War I, Mr. Burnelli worked on aircraft designs for the U.S. Navy here. He was called up for service when the United States entered the war, but the Navy discharged him in order to take advantage of his talents.

take advantage of his talents.

He designed a night fighter at an airfield in Copiague, Long Island, and though the craft did not see action in the war, it was eventually sold to the New York City Police Department as the first portion of an aerial

police force.
In 1919, Mr. Burnelli designed the first enclosed cabin aircraft intended solely for passengers. All prior passenger were converted bombers.

His first patent on the lifting-body principle was taken out in 1921, and in 1928, he was designer of the Chapman-Burnelli CB-16, a 16-passenger aircraft.

Mr. Burnelli was a member of the Early Birds, the Quiet Birdmen, and other aviation clubs. He was a member of the In-stitute of Aerospace Science. His other clubs include the Texas State Society, the Circus Saints and Sinners, and the Connecticut Aeronautical Historical Association.

He is survived by his wife, Hazel, of 9250 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring; two daughters, Barbara Adams of Huntington, Long Island, and Patricia Kimmins of Mattituck, Long Island, and three sisters.

The Sleeper in the Prayer Amendment

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. DON EDWARDS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, June 25, 1964

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, on May 24 of this year, the Reverend Duncan Howlett, minister of the All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington delivered a very important sermon, which, under unanimous consent, I submit to be printed in the Congressional Record. The Reverend Howlett is, of course, well known in this community for the outstanding contributions he has made, not only to his church and his parishioners, but to the welfare of everyone who lives here. On this occasion he made an insightful analysis of the so-called grassroots movement to pressure Congress into hasty action on the proposals to amend the Constitution regarding religious services in the public schools. His sermon reveals, too, how the apparently simple and innocuous words of the Becker amendment contain hidden dangers that could wreck the religious liberty we have so long enjoyed in this country.

The sermon follows:

THE SLEEPER IN THE PRAYER AMENDMENT

(A sermon by the Reverend Duncan Howlett, D.D., All Souls Church (Unitarian), Washington, D.C., Sunday, May 24, 1964)

A few years ago the New York State Board of Regents decided to deal realistically with a problem that was becoming increasingly vexatious in the public schools of the State. Protestants, Catholics, and Jews alike were dissatisfied with the simple but varying religlous exercises with which the school day was begun. Accordingly, the board called in Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish leaders and asked their approval of a prayer which the regents had composed for school use. The board then published a "Statement on Moral and Spiritual Training in the Schools." A part of that statement included the prayer recommended for use each morning in the schools. It was a model of simplicity, and read: "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependency upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents our teachers and our country." "We believe that this statement will be subscribed to by all men and women of good wili," said the board, "and we call upon all of them to aid in giving life to our program."

But the faith of the regents in their handiwork was not justified. Not all men, whether out of good or ill will, subscribed to their prayer. Among these, the parents of 10 pupils initiated court action because, they said, the prayer was contrary to the religious beliefs of themselves and their children. As you know, the case went to the Supreme